Department of Veterans' Affairs and the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks

Performance Audit of the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks Obligations under the Revocable License Agreement (Year 3) with the US Department of Veterans' Affairs – Veterans' Barrington Park

March 2020

FINAL REPORT

Submitted by:

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Attachment: Stakeholder Feedback Surveys

A. Executive Summary

The City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks contracted with BCA Watson Rice LLP to conduct an audit of the City's performance of its obligations under the Revocable License Agreement (the "Agreement") by and between the United States Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) and the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks regarding Veterans' Barrington Park, formerly known as Barrington Park. Our audit period was from September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019 (the third and final year of the Agreement). The Agreement was a recognition of the VA's goal to revitalize the VA's West Los Angeles Campus into a welcoming and vibrant community for Veterans of the Greater Los Angeles area, and help end veteran homelessness in Greater Los Angeles.

The primary objective of the audit was to assess and report on the City's compliance with certain key obligations under the Revocable License Agreement regarding Veterans' Barrington Park. The audit also included reaching out to Veterans' groups and other key stakeholders to solicit views and opinions regarding the City's performance of its obligations under the Revocable License Agreement.

Based on our audit, we found that the City complied with significant terms and conditions for the third year of the Agreement as summarized below. For more details of these results, please refer to pages 6-7 of this report.

- The City advertised and actively promoted the recruiting and hiring of Veterans at City parks.
- The City exceeded the requirement of hiring Veterans at a total annual cost of not less than \$200,000. We obtained documentation showing that the City hired and paid Veterans \$601,203.44 from September 1, 2018 through August 31, 2019. This amount exceeds the annual \$200,000 requirement to pay Veterans by \$401,203.44. Furthermore, for the entire three-year term of the Agreement, the City paid Veterans a total of \$1,066,084.18, which exceeds the total 3-year requirement per the Agreement by \$466,084.18.
- ➤ The City developed and prominently posted signage that give full force and effect to the purpose that Veterans' Barrington Park is to principally benefit Veterans and their families. Also, based on a site visit to the park in January 2020, we observed that the park is being maintained in a safe, clean, and sanitary condition.
- ➤ The City coordinated with the VA to plan and implement Veteran focused events and activities at Veterans' Barrington Park that would be open to Veterans and their families. This included certain planned activities not held on Park premises.
- ➤ We observed that the Park's parking lot was converted to a paid parking location. We were informed by the VA that the parking lot was converted to a paid parking lot in August 2019.

We conducted this performance audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. These standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our conclusions based on our audit objectives.

March 2020

BCA Watson Rice, LLP

B. Background

Veterans' Barrington Park is located at 333 South Barrington Avenue in Los Angeles, on property owned by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs ("VA") and is licensed to the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks ("City"). The approximately 9.82-acre park provides sports fields, a parking lot, picnic areas and an off-leash dog park. Over 900 residents live within one-half mile walking distance of Veteran's Barrington Park.

As a result of the Valentini v. McDonald litigation, the VA and the City of Los Angeles, acting by and through its Department of Recreation and Parks entered into a Revocable License ("Agreement") effective September 1, 2016 regarding the purpose and use of Veterans' Barrington Park. By entering into the Agreement, the City and VA confirmed and memorialized their mutual understanding of the terms and conditions which acknowledge that the Veterans' Barrington Park is part of the West Los Angeles Campus of the VA and that the primary purpose of the Veterans' Barrington Park is to principally benefit Veterans and their families.

Valentini v. McDonald was a class action lawsuit against the Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert McDonald and the director of the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System on behalf of homeless and disabled veterans. The lawsuit, filed in 2011 contended that the VA benefits programs discriminates against Veterans who are homeless as a result of their severe mental disabilities because they cannot access the medical, mental health and other services to which they are entitled.

In January 2015, the VA Secretary and attorneys representing homeless Veterans in Los Angeles announced an agreement to lead the launch of a new master plan for the West Los Angeles VA Campus to serve Veterans in need. Under the agreement, the Secretary and plaintiffs' representatives were to develop a written plan to help end veteran homelessness in the Greater Los Angeles area. The plan was to focus on serving Veterans, particularly homeless Veterans, women Veterans, aging Veterans and Veterans that are severely disabled. The plan was to include input from the Veterans' community and other stakeholders, including the local community.

Part of the plan included the parties entering into the Revocable License Agreement regarding the Veterans' Barrington Park in recognition of the VA's goal to revitalize the West Los Angeles Campus into a welcoming and vibrant community for Veterans of the Greater Los Angeles area, and help end Veteran homelessness in Greater Los Angeles.

C. Objectives, Scope and Methodology

The City of Los Angeles contracted with BCA Watson Rice LLP (BCAWR) to conduct an audit of the City's performance of its obligations under the Revocable License Agreement (the "Agreement") by and between the United States Department of Veteran Affairs and the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks regarding Veterans' Barrington Park, formerly known as Barrington Park. Our audit period was from September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019 (the third and final year of the Agreement).

The primary objective of the audit was to assess and report on the City's compliance with certain key obligations under the Revocable License Agreement regarding Veterans' Barrington Park. The scope of the audit included evaluating the City of Los Angeles' compliance with the following Revocable License Agreement requirements:

- Developing and prominently posting of signage and park rules that give full force and effect to the purpose that Veterans' Barrington Park is to principally benefit Veterans and their families.
- Posting of notices stating that the parking area of the Veterans' Park will be converted to a paid
 parking location, and providing notice of the anticipated start date for parking enforcement, which VA
 will determine.
- Coordinating with Greater Los Angeles (GLA) in assisting with planning and helping implement
 activities at the Veterans' Park that will be open to Veterans and their families. Activities may include,
 but not limited to, athletic, recreational, rehabilitation, social or therapeutic sports league programs.
 Activities will be planned in consultation with Veterans, Veterans Service Organizations, and the
 community.
- Maintaining the park license area and the parking area during the term of the Agreement, and keeping the same in a safe, clean, and sanitary condition. This requirement shall include landscaping and trash removal.
- Best efforts to hire Veterans on a priority basis when having contractors and/or City personnel
 construct, operate, or maintain improvements at the Veterans' Park. This will be in accordance with
 applicable state and local laws.
- Hiring of Veterans at an annual cost of not less than \$200,000.
- Assisting the VA with coordination for use of the park for up to three (3) VA-sponsored events per year.
- Obtain feedback and input from stakeholders such as Veterans and their families, Veterans' service organizations, California Congressional Delegation, plaintiffs in the Valentini v. McDonald litigation and the general community regarding the operations and uses of the park.

To accomplish the above audit objectives, our audit approach and methodology included the following:

- 1. Reviewed and analyzed the Agreement to obtain an understanding of the purpose of the Agreement and the City's obligations under the Agreement.
- 2. Conducted a site visit to determine whether posted signage and park rules that give full force and effect to the purpose that Veterans' Barrington Park is to principally benefit Veterans and their families.
- 3. Conducted a site visit to determine whether the City posted notices stating that the parking area of the Veterans' Park will be converted to a paid parking location, and providing notice of the anticipated start date for parking enforcement, which VA will determine.
- 4. Obtained and reviewed documentation from the City to determine whether, during the term of the Agreement, the City advertised and promoted the hiring of Veterans at City parks. We also obtained and summarized payroll records to determine whether the City hired Veterans to work at the parks at an annual cost of no less than \$200,000.
- 5. To determine whether Veterans' Barrington Park is being maintained in a safe, sanitary and clean condition satisfactory to VA, we conducted a site visit and obtained feedback from Veterans and other stakeholders.
- 6. Obtained a list of activities and documentation regarding the City's assistance in planning and implementing veteran focused events and activities (including 3 VA sponsored events if applicable) at Veterans' Barrington Park that would be open to Veterans and their families.
- 7. Developed and administered a survey to obtain feedback and input from key stakeholders.

D. Detailed Audit Results

Overall, we found that the City of Los Angeles was in compliance with key provisions of the Agreement as detailed below.

Review of Compliance with Veteran Employment and Hiring

Based on our review of documents and emails obtained from the City, we found that during the third year of the Agreement, the City advertised and actively promoted the recruiting and hiring of Veterans at City parks. The key documents obtained included:

- Announcement directed at Veterans for the Southeast L.A. Work Source Portal & HOPICS Job Hiring and Resources Fair sent to potential employers.
- Announcement and Vendor Guidelines for the Veterans Resource Hiring Day at East Los Angeles College.
- Announcement for the Veteran Targeted Hiring Event at the Southeast Los Angeles Work Source Center.
- Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks job bulletin posted on Salvation Army employment announcements.
- Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks attendance and job bulletin posted at the Veteran Resource Fair held at the East Los Angeles Community Based Outpatient Clinic.
- Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks job bulletins posted with Veterans Community Employment Development (VCED) employment announcements.
- Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks job bulletins posted with the City of Los Angeles
 Office of Veterans Affairs employment announcements.
- Special Program Assistant II Veteran Program Tracker.

The above documents provide evidence of the City communicating and announcing job openings to Veterans' organizations and job fairs organized for the purpose of hiring Veterans.

Review of Compliance with Payment of Wages to Veterans

We obtained a list of Veterans hired by the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks and payroll records for Veterans employed to work at City parks for the period September 1, 2018 through August 31, 2019. We summarized the payroll records for the year and found that the City paid wages totaling \$603,203.44 to Veterans during the third and final year of the Agreement. This amount exceeds the \$200,000 annual requirement to pay Veterans by \$403,284.44. Also, as per the table on the following page, for the entire three-year term of the Agreement, the City paid Veterans an excess of \$466,084.18 over what was required by the Agreement.

Year 1 (September 1, 2016 through August 31,2017)	\$ 125,511.42
Year 1 (September 1, 2017 through August 31,2018)	339,369.32
Year 1 (September 1, 2018 through August 31,2019)	601,203.44
Total Wages Paid During the 3 Year Term	\$ 1,066,084.18
Total Wages Required to be Paid During the Term	600,000.00
Total Wages Paid in Excess of the Agreement Requirement	\$ 466,084.18

Review of Compliance with Veteran Focused Events and Activities

Based on our review of a list of activities held at Veterans' Barrington Park, we found that the City coordinated with the VA to plan and implement Veteran focused events and activities at Veterans Barrington Park that would be open to Veterans and their families. Veteran focused activities included the Fall/Winter 2018-2019 and Spring/Summer 2019 softball league seasons and a Labor Day softball tournament. In addition to these activities held on Park premises, the City also coordinated with the VA to plan a Patients' Valentine's Day Dance for Veterans at the West LA Campus, a VA Greater Los Angeles Health Care System Veteran Stand Down held at the West Los Angeles VA Medical Center Welcome Center, and Umpire training classes for Veterans held at the Balboa Recreation Center in Encino.

Review of Compliance with Signage and Park Rules and Maintaining the Park in a Safe, Sanitary and Clean Condition

We conducted a site visit at Veterans' Barrington Park in January 2020 and found that the City has developed and prominently posted signage that gives full force and effect to the purpose that Veterans' Barrington Park is to primarily benefit Veterans and their families. With the exception of a few gopher holes beyond the dirt infields of the two softball fields, we also found that the park appeared to be maintained in a safe, sanitary and clean condition.

Review of Compliance with Parking Area Requirements

During the first year audit, we obtained a public notice dated October 12, 2016 from the City that stated a conversion of the Veterans' Barrington Park parking lot to a paid parking location was planned with an implementation date to be determined and enforced by the United States Veterans Administration. We conducted a site visit at the Park in January 2020 and found that the paid parking conversion had been implemented by the VA. According to the VA, the conversion occurred in August of 2019.

Feedback from Veterans and Community Members

As required by the Agreement, and in conjunction with the VA, we developed and administered a survey questionnaire to solicit stakeholder feedback regarding the City's obligations under the Revocable License Agreement, and to obtain Veterans' and stakeholder views and opinions on the overall condition and management of the park.

Initially, the survey was published on the Veteran Advocate website and shared via electronic email correspondence to over 200 stakeholders including the former Plaintiffs in the Valentini v. McDonald lawsuit, Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs), Congressional delegations, state and local representatives, and Veterans. The survey was made available on January 8, 2020 and remained active until January 14, 2020.

The survey included topics such as reasons for visiting and using Veteran's Barrington Park, Veteran satisfaction of the quality of the activities and events held at the park, and the overall condition and safety of the park.

No survey responses were received after the initial survey publication. In an effort to obtain more responses, another email was sent on January 23, 2020 transmitting the survey directly to over 200 stakeholders requesting that responses be received by January 30, 2020. Upon receiving a request to extend the response deadline, the survey response period remained open until February 7, 2020. Additionally, on approximately February 5, 2020, the VA also distributed the survey via email to Veterans playing in the Veterans' Barrington Park softball leagues allowing them until February 20, 2020 to respond.

As a result of these outreach efforts, we received 3 individual completed surveys and a summary of 128 responses from the Brentwood Homeowners Association. The responses included comments with concerns over paid parking, gopher holes, and the overall condition and safety of the Park grounds and softball/playing fields.

We have included copies of the completed surveys received and the summary of responses from the Brentwood Homeowners Association as an Attachment to this report.



Survey

Veterans' Barrington Park - Audit of the City of Los Angeles, compliance with certain key obligations under the Revocable License Agreement. This survey is being conducted to solicit stakeholder input, specifically as it relates to year three of the

Revocable License Agreement (9/1-2018 - 8/31/2019). Survey Period: Stakeholders are encouraged to share feedback using this Survey. The solicitation period will open on Wednesday, 1/22/2019 and close on Thursday, 1/30/2020. Responder information: Name: Email Address: Phone Number: Veteran or Veteran family member? Submission Instructions: Please complete this fillable Survey and submit, via email, to Tom Kelly at tkelly@bcawr.com. 1. Do you visit Veterans' Barrington Park? If yes, what are the primary reasons for your visits? (Select all that apply) Exercise/Jog Dog walking Bring kid(s) to play Close to home Leisure/Relax Spend time with family/friends Attend event/function Picnicking Tranquility/Quietness Other (please specify) The park is to be maintained in a safe, clean and sanitary condition. If you visited the park, how would you characterize the overall condition and operations of the park? Excellent Very Good Good Fair Poor 2. Have you been aware of job advertisements or notices posted by the City of Los Angeles (through its Department of Recreation and Parks) directed toward hiring Veterans? Yes: () No:

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		33. 66	
	: :	 	
3.	Are you a Veteran who has been hired by the City of Lo Recreation and Parks? Yes: No: No:	s Angeles Depa	rtment of
	If yes, how satisfied are you with the job and overall sco	ope of work:	
	Satisfied Somewhat Satisfie Somewhat Dissatir Dissatisfied		
4,	Have you been aware of activities/events at Veterans' Benefit of Veterans and their families? (Such activities recreational, rehabilitation, social or therapeutic sports	may have inclu	led athletic,
	Yes: No: No:	•	
	If yes, how did you find out about the activities?		
	word of mouth		
5.	Have you attended or participated in activities/events a organized for the benefit of Veterans and their families included athletic, recreational, rehabilitation, social or programs) Yes: No:	s? (Such activiti	es may have
	If yes, how satisfied were you with the quality of the ac	ctivities and eve	ents.
	Satisfied Satisfied Somewhat Satisfie Somewhat Dissatisfied		
6.	Do you have any other comments regarding the overal	l condition and	operations of the
	park and its service to Veterans? Yes: No: (\mathbf{O}^{-}	į
	If yes, please describe.		}
	parking is very expensive		:
			:
7.	Are you likely to visit the park in the future?		
	Yes: No: (0	
o	What services would you like to see available in Vetera	~	Park that are not
٥,	currently available?	warmgoon t	
			:
			•

Survey

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park, how would you characterize the overall condition and operations of the park?

Excellent
Very Good
Good
Fair
Poor

2. Have you been aware of job advertisements or notices posted by the City of Los Angeles (through its Department of Recreation and Parks) directed toward hiring Veterans?

3.	Are you a Veteran who has been hired by the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks? No: No:
	If yes, how satisfied are you with the job and overall scope of work:
	Very Satisfied Satisfied Somewhat Satisfie Somewhat Dissatis Dissatisfied
4.	Have you been aware of activities/events at Veterans' Barrington Park organized for the benefit of Veterans and their families? (Such activities may have included athletic, recreational, rehabilitation, social or therapeutic sports league programs) Yes: No:
	If yes, how did you find out about the activities?
5.	Have you attended or participated in activities/events at Veterans' Barrington Park organized for the benefit of Veterans and their families? (Such activities may have included athletic, recreational, rehabilitation, social or therapeutic sports league programs) Yes: No:
	If yes, how satisfied were you with the quality of the activities and events.
	Very Satisfied Satisfied Somewhat Satisfie Somewhat Dissatisfied
6.	Do you have any other comments regarding the overall condition and operations of the park and its service to Veterans? Yes: No:
	If yes, please describe.
	There is a huge gopher problem which started at the VA decades ago and they turned a blind eye to. It has spread to this land and it is very hard to play or walk on it. They should focus on safety.
7.	Are you likely to visit the park in the future?
	Yes: No:
8.	What services would you like to see available in Veterans Barrington Park that are not currently available?
	It has enough activity and should enjoy the participation of Vets. I dont know how they find out about it, but communication in brentwood at best is very hard. NextDoor would let people know of events or Vet offerings.

Survey

Veterans' Barrington Park - Audit of the City of Los Angeles, compliance with certain cey obligations under the Revocable License Agreement. This survey is being conducted to solicit stakeholder input, specifically as it relates to year three of the Revocable License Agreement (9/1-2018 - 8/31/2019). Survey Period: Stakeholders are encouraged to share feedback using this Survey. The solicitation period will open on Wednesday, 1/22/2019 and close on Thursday, 1/30/2020. Responder information: Name: : Email Address: Phone Number: Veteran or Veteran family member? Submission Instructions: Please complete this fillable Survey and submit, via email, to Tom Kelly at tkelly@bcawr.com. Do you visit Veterans' Barrington Park? If yes, what are the primary reasons for your visits? (Select all that apply) Exercise/Jog Dog walking Bring kid(s) to play Close to home Leisure/Relax Spend time with family/friends Attend event/function Picnicking Tranquility/Quietness Other (please specify) The park is to be maintained in a safe, clean and sanitary condition. If you visited the park, how would you characterize the overall condition and operations of the park? Excellent Very Good Good Have you been aware of job advertisements or notices posted by the City of Los

Angeles (through its Department of Recreation and Parks) directed toward hiring

Yes: (

No: ()

Veterans?

3.	Recreation and Parks? Yes: No: No:
	If yes, how satisfied are you with the job and overall scope of work:
	Very Satisfied Satisfied Somewhat Satisfie Somewhat Dissatis Dissatisfied
4.	Have you been aware of activities/events at Veterans' Barrington Park organized for the benefit of Veterans and their families? (Such activities may have included athletic, recreational, rehabilitation, social or therapeutic sports league programs) Yes: No: No:
	in yes, now and you find out about the activities.
5.	Have you attended or participated in activities/events at Veterans' Barrington Park organized for the benefit of Veterans and their families? (Such activities may have included athletic, recreational, rehabilitation, social or therapeutic sports league programs) Yes: No:
	If yes, how satisfied were you with the quality of the activities and events.
	Very Satisfied Satisfied Somewhat Satisfie Somewhat Dissatis Dissatisfied
6.	Do you have any other comments regarding the overall condition and operations of the park and its service to Veterans? $Y_{es:}$ No:
	If yes, please describe.
	The park should be oprated by veterans. It is their property and theyshould benefit from operating it.
7.	Are you likely to visit the park in the future?
	Yes: No:
8.	What services would you like to see available in Veterans Barrington Park that are not currently available?
	A kennel that includes grooming services and veterinary services for veterans' dogs.
	A training program for disabled veterans' service animals

Brentwood Homeowners Association survey responses for Veterans' Barrington Park

Are you a veteran or veteran family member?

Yes:	40
No:	88

Do you visit Veterans Barrington Park on the east side of Barrington just south of the Post Office?

_	you visit veteralis barrington rank on the eas
	Yes: 80
	No: 48

If yes, what are the primary reasons for your visits? (Select all that apply)

ary reasons for your visit	
13	Exercise/Jog:
45	Dog Walking:
35	Bring Kids To Play:
29	Close To Home:
14	Leisure/Relax:
12	Spend Time With
	ramily/Friends:
1 5	Attend Event or
15	Function:
2	Picnic:
7	Tranquility:
11	Other:

The park is to be maintained in a safe, clean and sanitary condition. How would you characterize the

overall condition and operations of the park?

Excellent:	3
Very Good:	
Good:	
Fair:	29
Poor:	9

Have you been aware of job advertisements or notices posted by the City of Los Angeles (through its Department of Recreation and Parks) directed toward hiring

Veterans?

Yes:	20
No:	108

Are you a Veteran who has been hired by the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and

i diks:		
	Yes: 0	
	No: 128	

If yes, how satisfied are you with the job and overall scope of work:

/ /	,
Very Satisfied:	0
Satisfied:	0
Somewhat Satisfied:	0
Somewhat Dissatisfied:	0
Dissatisfied:	0

Have you been aware of activities/events at Veterans' Barrington Park organized for the benefit of Veterans and their families? (Such activities may have included athletic, recreational, rehabilitation,

social or therapeutic sports league programs)

Yes:	16
No:	112

If yes, how did you find out about the activities?

Word of mouth	
Neighborhood emails	
Through friends	
Word of mouth	
Village for Vets	
emails	
Brentwood Homeowners Association	
internet	
Brentwood Homeowners Bulletins	
Word of mouth	
Facebook	
Brentwood news and neighborhood association	
Word of mouth	
General awareness	

Have you attended or participated in activities/events at Veterans' Barrington Park organized for the benefit of Veterans and their families? (Such activities may have included athletic, recreational, rehabilitation, social or therapeutic sports league programs)

Yes:	6
No: 122	

If yes, how satisfied were you with the quality of the activities and events.

Very Satisfied:	
Satisfied:	3
Somewhat Satisfied:	1
Somewhat Dissatisfied:	0
Dissatisfied:	0

Do you have any other comments regarding the overall condition and operations of the park and its service to Veterans?

service to veterans:
No
Parking is very limited and it's impossible to get a space. If cars line up waiting for a
space they block traffic
The gopher holes are bad.
No
no
no
No
The space used to feel like it served the whole community, not it feels like the general

The space used to feel like it served the whole community, not it feels like the general public is not welcome. The dog park is not very well maintained, gophers are omni present pitting the playing field. I applaud that the parking lot is a pay lot now but it's too expensive. I think it could be more welcoming to everyone.

This park could be a tremendous asset and complement to the town of Brentwood, but instead is solely useful as a dog run. The gopher/mole holes and poor grass condition prevent any material form of human activity. I've never seen anyone playing any sport there despite it being wonderful space. A great town like Brentwood deserves a first class park and I'm sure the citizens would find ways to support its development. A park that people utilized would benefit the businesses nearby and be a centerpiece for the town which does not have sufficient park space for family enjoyment.

Tennis courts need new nets.

The park needs to be upgraded.

No

the park seems to be used primarily by families and children, with part used as a dog park. As such, it is a community favorable park. There does not seem to be access from the large VA property and the "lease" with the Brentwood schoo may make creating access challenging.

Why are veterans not being hired as parking attendants?

The condition of the fields is dangerous given the numerous gopher holes.

Nο

Even though I haven't visited the park, I would like to see it survive and continue to benefit our Veterans.

Why are you charging high parking prices now? It is taking away sense of community and participation for those of us who have lived and shopped here for over 20 years.

We have four children and have played and practiced various sports at the park over the past 15 years. While I understand the park is perhaps intended to benefit Veterans, in the condition it is in I can't imagine anyone benefiting. The west side is woefully lacking in open space and particularly quality recreation facilities, and this facility is ideally positioned to serve the west-side community at large. Unfortunately, the park is poorly maintained and is riddled with gopher holes which make it unsafe for virtually any activity, especially sports.

Charging for parking makes the park an unwelcome place for our family.

I think it would be wonderful to incorporate the needs of both the Veterans and the non Veterans so the park is fully utilized.

- 1. It would be beneficial to extend the existing dog park to include some of the adjacent grassy/green area that used to be part of the dog park--the area with the awning is going to waste and would be a great additional space for all
- 2. Create a smaller space for smaller dogs.
- 3. Make the space more handicapped/wheelchair friendly with shaded areas for the elderly and vets.

The gophers are a serious problem both to the park and to the community. Every effort should be made to control and eradicate these animals.

I think it could do a lot more

Gopher Holes

Park is much appreciated. But please ticket those who use the parking lots for longterm parking! Those who want to play tennis have to wait for the few spaces not taken up by those freeloaders.

Parking too expensive

The only veterans I think I actually observe, tend to be homeless who claim to be veterans. It's my understanding that the rules governing the VA specify that it serve veterans. However, serving homeless veterans seems to be a different kind of activity. The homeless clearly need help, much of it mental/drug help, but having them scattered around otherwise "normal" communities doesn't seem to serve either constituency well.

I have lived in Brentwood for 14years and it has always been somewhat rundown.

I am not a veteran but I am a lifelong resident and some of my earliest childhood memories are of this park and it's classes for toddlers. I also attended obedience classes there with my dog.

it would be nice if it was kept clean and better gardens, plants, flowers, etc.

It would be good to control the ground squirrel/gopher population so that the playing fields are not a danger to the safety of those using them.

There are a lot of homeless people specially in the bathrooms which makes it unsafe or unsanitary for children

Too many scary men in the park alone that makes it unsafe for small children and even women

no comments, except that I wish it was more available to the vets and the community. I would oppose the use of the park for homeless encampments.

I DO think the Veterans property should help with housing the homeless in the area

The bathrooms need much in the way of improvement

Parking should have remained free. The parking is very expensive and makes the park no longer convenient.

In my experience, dog owners and their dogs rule the park. When my son played soccer there, other parents and I referred to it as Dog Shit Park. People, especially children, should instead be the park's priority.

Parking should be free.

Not aware of these services.

The park is one of the worst public spaces in Los Angeles and I say this as someone who has for many years visited Rec centers throughout the city for my children's sporting events. It is filthy depressing and poorly maintained. People let their dogs run and poop all over the field. The gophers have made the field surface unsafe. That this is the best the park service can do is shameful. Go from palms to the deep valley the parks are great. Barrington is the worst. Unfortunately it is my neighborhood Rec center.

The grass area is full of gopher holes and should be better maintained for use as playing fields.

We need an hour of free parking. The cost has reduced the number of humans that use the park. The place smells. What used to be a gathering of humans to enjoy the outside is gone. It seems like the VA has done everything possible to prevent the park from being used except by soccer families.

NA

I do know that Rep. Lieu authored a bill maintaining that all VA land should be operated for the primary benefit of veterans, and frankly I don't see how the current operations are even close to meeting that standard.

It is very sad to see that the park which was used for many years to provide sports for children now lays empty. Barrington park was a wonderful place for the community to join and have children laughing and playing a wide variety of sports in a safe clean and healthy environment.

Building a high profile turf soccer center could drive significant revenue for veterans and create job opportunity for them (reffing, concessions, maintenance, etc).

Very frustrating that it is not free to park at a park!

A park that brings veterans and other community members together is a good thing.

Are you likely to visit the park in the future?

Are you likely to visit the	park in the future:
Yes:	85
No:	43

What services would you like to see available in Veterans Barrington Park that are not currently available?

Nice dog park

More parking

I think the park serves the Vets and community well

Free parking. Consistent and regular trash collection.

build a small apartment building consisting of one bedroom apartments for Veterans currently living on the Street

I am not sure.

More seating

Community classes, maybe hiring vets to do the maintenance, fix the uneven sidewalks along Barrington (I have seen people fall here), pay some attention to landscaping and invest in making a beautiful welcome space for Vets and the community to play ball, walk their dogs, picnic?

I would like the price for parking to be reasonable. I'd come way more often if price were reasonable. I'm looking for another park now. I like that it supports vets, but not

at the expense of being a good place for neighbors and dogs to meet. Sectioning off a small part for small dogs, like before, would be welcome.

Ask veterans and their families. I am a military brat. Granddaughter of Lt.General Samuel L.Howard,Rear Admiral Lawrence B.Richardson. Daughter of a Navy fighter and test pilot. Sister-in-law law of two Vietnam vets, niece of a Navy Captain, Great Aunt of a soon to be graduate of West Point. That park seems pretty pathetic to me but I'm not using it.

Turf sport playing fields. Exercise and running areas. A first class playground.

Seating areas

Less expensive parking in the lot on Barrington Place

No (my mobility is severely limited as a result of an accident about two years ago, so personally I will not be going to the park in the future.

a small dog section to the doggy park and a limit to the number of dogs that one person can bring into the do park.

One

I will visit the park again if the va lowers the cost of parking --make it free for first hour if using the park

Free parking. Notice of events for the local community.

Obama's helicopter landed there.

Well-maintained grass or turf fields that are accessible to the community.

Free parking as it used to be.

Shelter, outdoors from the high winds.

Children's playground

I hope that the dog Park will remain open. I think it's especially nice for the people who don't have backyards to have a place to let their dogs run off leash. I am a homeowner so I don't go that often but I think it's important to have

Clean dog park. Clean field with no gopher problem. Affordable parking.

- 1. Create income resources for vets:
- a. Set up a donation box for the veterans
- b. Provide maintenance jobs for veterans to keep the area clean and groomed (owners and dog walkers do a great job of cleaning up after their pets but it would be nice to have the concrete areas, sidewalks and bench areas hosed down on a regular basis.
- 3. add a restroom or a pavilion are up near the gate/entrance that might include a vending machine for soda and snacks

activities that involve the community getting to know the veterans - crafts, movies, entertainment, classes - These two populations should be encouraged to get to know each other.

The park is filled with gopher holes which can be dangerous for people to walk or run on. Perhaps they can address this issue.

Clean up and modernize the soccer and baseball areas

I think the park is a valuable part of the community! I have lived in the immediate vicinity for 30 year and my kids (4) all used the park while growing up for sports and other outdoor activities. Unfortunately Brentwood has very little park areas. It should be possible to service both community and veterans alike. Veterans should use the park for activities Monday-Friday form 8am-3pm. School children could use the park in the afternoons from approx. 3pm-6pm. Weekends should be shared and alternated so everyone's needs are met. We are a community and we need to act like one. No one benefits by ignoring the needs of Veterans or the residents.

Thank you for asking for my input.

Activities for CalVet residents

I used to visit this park regularly - several times a week - until the VA took over. In my opinion, it is now unwelcoming due to the parking fees and over-managed. I preferred it when it was just a nice green space in our community. Crazy that we now have to pay to use a park. But, I'm old and miss things the way they used to be....ha.

Don't know.

More benches

Make the grass and dirt areas clean and new and proper..everyone deserves it.

Whatever services local residents and veterans need and enjoy.

More comfortable places to sit and relax, like benches and picnic tables. More senior activities and just more beautiful!

FREE PARKING.

Public Restroom facilities (like on the Palisades)

More after school and weekend activities for kids and seating for family members.

Night Lights. Fields in much better condition. Enforcement of no dogs allowed on field (only in dog park). Improvements to the dog park.

More organized recreation opportunities

Shower

Encouragement of community use of the park.

Walking/running path with lighting

Cleaner and more kids programs

Don't know

Bridge game and parking made available for free.

Grounds better maintained to alleviate the issue with gopher holes.

Tennis courts

When our kids were younger, we enjoyed the sports programs that were played on these fields.

More classes like CPR and Mental Health First Aid. More spaces for kids to play.

Bathrooms. Policing of the dog park. Landscaping. Enforcement of rules pertaining to dogs and litter. Shade. More and clean water fountains. Soccer goals.

Lighted soccer fields with goals given the number of children and adults who play in the area.

Keep the dog park. That way the dog walkers do not as frequently invade the neighborhood.

Free one hour parking for everyone!!!!

NΔ

I don't understand how VA officials can see the encampments of homeless vets all around the perimeter of their property when they have all that green space. Install more sanitation facilities and let the campers use the fields rather than the sidewalks. With the new parking situation they are sparsely used by the general public anyway.